THE EVENING FIRE-SIDE;

OR

Weekly Intelligence

IN THE CIVIL, NATURAL, MORAL, LITERARY AND RELIGIOUS WORLDS.

CALCULATED PARTICULARLY FOR THE PERUSAL OF THE YOUNG, AND THOSE OF RETIRED HABITS OF LIFE.

PUBLISHED INDEPENDENTLY OF ANY INTERESTED PARTY ATTACHMENT, AND WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF TRUTH AND PURITY.

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FOR THE EVENING FIRE-SIDE.

Some observations on the use of Distilled Spiritous Liquors.

In the following essay I propose to throw together a few observations on the use of spiritous liquors: for the consideration of the serious, and reflecting of every rank, believing it to be a subject well worthy of their close attention.

The first adventurers who settled in this country, were possessed of an habitual aversion to drinking water, having been accustomed to drinking beer or ale altogether in England. They also apprehended that the water contained some noxious quality, and that the air of this hot country was unhealthy. They were fully confirmed in these opinions, by observing some of their companions die suddenly, who drank freely of cold water. And that dysenteries, and severe fevers and agues, prevailed in the Autumnal season.

The water was indeed hurtful because of its coldness, and the quantity drank, when the body was heated—and the fogs were unhealthy, from the marsh effluvia they contained. But spiritous liquors were not a proper antidote, especially when brought into common use; and both, in a physical and moral respect, were highly improper. Yet, through the influence of erroneous prejudices, and opinions, the good people of this country adopted the practice, which was common in the West India Islands; and drank rum imported from thence, or an inferior kind from New England, manufactured out of molasses.

The small-pox being frequently severe, and the most proper treatment of the disorder altogether mistaken. Rum administered in various forms, was esteemed absolutely necessary for the sick, and nearly as much so, for the attendants, by whom drams either raw, or sweetened, or with bitters, were used as antidotes against infectious and offensive smells.—In the early settlement of the country, agues and fevers of the season were common in the latter part of the Summer, and Fall of the year; and either for the purpose of relief, or prevention, spikenard, gentian, and a variety of other articles infused in spirits, were much used as domestic medicine. And hence, an idea of the medicinal usefulness of spirits, almost universally prevailed.

The sentiments of the people being thus predisposed, common opinion, common custom, generosity and hospitality, all united with the natural influence of habit, to favour the general use of spirits.

Through the combined influence of these causes, spiritous liquors became an indispensable article in harvest, and hay-time, at raising of buildings, at frolicks of every kind, and also at vendues; and as it had been customary in the parent country, to give hot and spiced wine, or ale and cakes at funerals, stewed rum became the substitute here. All this free use of spirits, had a strong influence on the minds and manners of the people, who being more or less elevated and inflamed with strong drink, frequently behaved in a rude and disorderly manner; and this being common, was the less regarded as a blemish of character. Actual drunkards, and sots, were alone considered as transgressors, and every inferior degree was deemed the necessary use. Common opinion and common custom, ruled the subject with sovereign authority without much interruption, until the large quantities given at vendues, became so manifest an evil in all its consequences, that petitions were presented to the Legislature on the subject, and an act was passed in 1750, prohibiting the practice in future, under a penalty of four pounds for the first offence, and for the second and every other offence, the sum of five pounds. But for many years the good effect intended by the law was evaded, by adjourning the vendue to drink rum, and in one instance, twenty gallons of rum were drank, where less than two hundred pounds worth of goods were sold.

The reason of this was, because the general opinion of the people, did not then sufficiently coincide with the intention of the law, to render it efficient.—The more sober and thinking part, of all religious societies being affected with concern, on account of the inconsistency of giving spirits at funerals, and the society of Friends took such measures, as in a few years put an end to the practice among themselves.

The example has been pretty generally followed by others, but not universally; and at places where spirits continue to be given, the company generally enter into conversation in a manner very unsuitable to the solemnity proper on those occasions.

As a very extraordinary and striking instance of the influence of custom, in full contradiction to the evident dictates of decency and common sense, it may be proper here to remark, that at Albany, and in some other parts of the state of New York, it hath been usual in conformity with ancient customs, for the company attending a funeral, after the interment, to return to the late dwelling house of the deceased (and perhaps other houses in the neighbourhood employed for the purpose) where a plentiful dinner, with wine, spirits, pipes and tobacco, being provided. The scene of mourning soon became changed into the opposite extreme, and the evening was spent to a late hour, in the usual manner of intemperate indulgence: And what is still more remarkable, people in making their wills frequently directed a certain specific sum

to defray the expence of their own funeral, with an intention that they should be conducted in the customary way.

This appears at first view, to be the extreme extent of inconsistency in the practice of a people professing Christianity, or aiming at the useful improvements of civilization. But the whole might be no more, than some remains of the rude and ignorant manners and customs of antiquity, not yet reduced to the standard of use and propriety. And what better authority is there for the customary use, that is now generally made of spiritous liquors on many other occasions.

" Few in the extreme, yet most in the degree,
" Each thinks his neighbour farther gone than he;
" And prompt receipt, on this assurance takes,
" In full discharge for all his own mistakes."

In the time of the Revolutionary war, as spirits of any kind were not easily to be had, many sober persons who were only attached to the use of spirits by custom, both employers and labourers, found by experience, that they were not only unnecessary, but in many respects were actually hurtful. Since that period, the number of those who from principle, have either wholly or in great part, declined the use of spirits, has gradually increased. And also from a concurrence of causes, spirits have not been used at vendues, except, where the impressions of civilization have not so fully extended their influence.

At a furnace in New Jersey where much business is done, no kind of spirits are used by any of the workmen; they are wholly banished from the place, and sufficient experience has now fully proved, that large quantities of good iron may be made, without the use of spiritous liquors—with much greater advantage and satisfaction, both to the employer and labourer. Thus, laudable experiment has been effected, through the steady and spirited exertions of the humane proprietors.

At a large store of goods kept in a neighbouring state, it had been usual to retail out a hogshead of spirits in a day, and on those termed holydays, more than double that quantity. But the owners observing the mischievous consequences arising from the use of such vast quantities of intoxicating liquors, have for some time past wholly declined keeping any to sell, and thereby have nobly sacrificed a clear profit of several hundred pounds a year, with a view of promoting the real benefit and happiness of mankind.

J. W.

(To be continued)

FOR THE EVENING FIRE-SIDE.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PASSIONS.

(Continued from page 149.)

Perception and memory are absolutely necessary to the comfortable enjoyment of life, and the due performance of its necessary offices; and may be cultivated in rational beings almost to any extent desirable. On the contrary, those who dedicate their time to any one particular study or branch of science, seldom attain further than a state of mediocrity in any other. For these reasons youth ought to have frequent diversity of scholastic exercises.* At the same time it must be remembered, that no one is better qualified to complete any single or simple system, or settle any particular business not intricately connected, than those disposed to melancholy, and of a sedentary life; especially if the subject happen to be in unison with the peculiar sensations and train of ideas of the moment; for such are, from natural disposition, inclined to dwell upon one subject, even, in some instances in my own recollection, to such an intense degree as to suspend the animal functions, and produce a different state, in that

" Sweet forgetfulness of human care,"

Without which the wretched would lose the power of enduring their wretchedness; and the happy, that of enjoying their good fortune. Even those who have been considered as idiots can frequently perceive one thing, or follow the train of a single subject, (I mean a distinct one) as well as those whose minds are in a state perfectly consonant with true sanity; but when ideas are to be followed and connected in a continued chain, here they fall into error: and here we discover a deficiency of the powers of memory, to which we are indebted for one of the greatest comforts of our existence; inasmuch as, without its aid, we are rendered almost unfit for the common transactions or the immediate duties of life. Without a consciousness of the past, memory, strictly speaking, cannot be said to exist; a casual recurrence to former transactions may with more propriety be termed simple recollection. In our perfect remembrance of former dangers or evils either that have attended ourselves, or are remembered to have happened, we are obliged, in a great measure, for our preservation from many dangers as it naturally induces precaution. It would follow, that men of the most happy memory are the least of all liable to mistake, from bad counsel or falling into errors. Men who never have been possessed of a retentive memory, or who, by reason of any accident, have been deprived of this blessing, become in proportion mere thinking machines; for such consider nothing but the present moment, this making the immediate impression: the past, with such, becomes obliterated —they have no power to anticipate the future, because they have forgot the past, from which alone we can judge of what is possible, when the first emotions of despair and sorrow have subsided, and become melted down into softened melancholy, we muse with a retrospective view or recollection of innocent pleasures, which inspires that species of noble confidence always resulting from the remembrance, the consciousness of having acted well: and this comfort we owe to memory. So strong are its powers in some, that I have known a person repeat verbatim, Homer, or Virgil, with the slight assistance of a friend who now and then repeated a single sentence, perhaps a word, by way of exciting an idea, which of course induced its train in succession. Thus the effect of the associating principle, my friend W. Stewart, in his observations on the association of ideas observes, " that one thought is often suggested to the mind by another; and that even the sight of external objects often recalls former occurrences,

* It may not be here improper to say something of the difference we observe in the perceptions of youth, to manhood, and age. In the morning of life, or from the period of observation in youth, commencing with their worldly engagements and pursuits, in the fullness of glowing expectation, all around them, and every perceptible object, appear (to them) in their true light; every thing they see and hear is beautiful or delighting, the society they choose is to them the most pleasing, and in fact every consideration is to them superlative, but as we advance in life, experience and a maturer judgment gradually elevates the veil and expands the mind, discovering many, very many and important defects in the things we before had been in rapturous admiration of, and proves to us the folly and insufficiency of youthful irritability, and to an attentive mind is the season for laying the foundation of future mental comfort, so that when we have reached the climacteric, the summit we stand still and reflect upon the past, comparing them with the present, and look forward to the future with pleasure, sometimes without suspicious doubt. It is however in this state that our judgements are the least likely to deceive us, in this state we are apt to look upon youth as the age of presumption and folly, thus each throw contempt upon the other.

" Let me not live (says he)
" After my flame lacks oil, to be the snuff
" Of younger spirits, whose apprehensive sense,
" All but new things disdain—whose judgments are
" Mere fathers of their garments, whose constancies
" Expire before their fashions."

SHAKESPEAR.

and revives former feelings." These are facts perfectly familiar, even to those who are the least disposed to speculate concerning the principles of their natures.

The connection which is formed in the mind between the words of a language and the ideas they denote; the connection which is formed between the different words of a discourse which we have committed to memory: the analogy between the different notes of a musical instrument in the mind of a musician, are all of them powerful instances of the same general law of nature. The influence of perceptible objects, in reviving former thoughts and former feelings, are most particularly remarkable after time has in some degree reconciled us to any lamented event; after the death of a friend, for instance, how wonderfully are we affected the first time we enter the house where he lived, or the room where he sat: every thing we see recalls naturally to the mind the pleasurable moments we have passed together, and we should feel it a kind of violation of the respect which we consider due to his memory, to engage in any trivial or slight and indifferent discourse, when such objects are before us.—In the case too of these remarkable scenes which interest our curiosity, from the memorable persons or transactions which we have been accustomed to connect with them, in the course of our studies, the fancy is more awakened by the actual perception of the scene itself, than it could possibly be by the mere conception of it.—Hence the pleasure we enjoy in visiting old and familiar classical grounds; in beholding the retreats which inspired the genius of our favourite authors; or the fields which have been dignified by the certain exertions of heroic virtue. How feeble are the emotions produced by the liveliest conceptions of modern Italy, to what the Poet felt when, amidst the ruins of Rome,

"He drove the inspiring breath of ancient Arts,
——" And trod the sacred walks
"Where, at each step, imagination burns."

"Whilst we were at dinner (says capt. King) in this miserable hut on the banks of the river Awatska, the guests of a people with whose existence we had before been scarcely acquainted, and at the extremity of the habitable globe, a solitary, half-worn pewter spoon, whose shape was familiar to us, attracted our attention; and, on examination, we found it stamped on the back with the word "London." I cannot, (continues he) pass over in silence this circumstance, out of gratitude for the many pleasant thoughts, the anxious hopes, and tender remembrances it excited in us." Those only who have experienced the effect that long absence, and extreme distance from our native country produce on the mind, will readily conceive the pleasure such a trifling incident can give.

This effect of perceptible objects in awakening associated thoughts, and associated feelings, seems to arise, says professor Stewart, in a great measure, from the permanence of the impressions which such objects produce. Before one idea can suggest another, it must itself disappear; and a train perhaps succeeds, to which the first bears a very slight relation. But in the case of perception, the object remains before us, and introduces to the mind, in succession, all the various ideas and emotions with which it has any connection.

The intimate connection which exists in our ideas is an observation familiar even among the unlettered part of mankind, as may readily be discovered by the very common maxims of prudence with the considerate at least, and may be observable by the general rule to avoid even in common conversation any topics of discourse which at the moment convey ideas of an unpleasant nature. From this we easily infer a supposition, that there are connections among our thoughts which have a material influence on their succession, and upon these depend the good order and regulation of social life. A very elegant writer, Dr. Reid, has observed, that "the part of our constitution on which the association of ideas depend, was anciently called fancy; but it is certainly different from a general association of ideas; and is better suited to express the powers of the painter or the poet."

From this matter of opinion, perhaps of fact, and from our common observation, it may readily be admitted, that the frequent changing the ideas, by the introduction to the mind of different objects and variety of subjects, eminently tends to exhilarate and strengthen. We have had many of us frequent reason to lament among our common acquaintance, the want of due attention to these important truths: for the more ardent the affection, and steady pursuit of the mind towards any one particular object, beyond a certain degree, the more in proportion will the mind, and consequently the body, become affected; but under the full enjoyment of our rational faculties, and the assistance of a proper, well regulated education, with the blessings of health, we experience the benign effects of a true perception—a consideration which ought surely to expand the mind in gratitude, inasmuch as it assists in opening to man the blissful scenes of immortality; teaches him to look up to the Supreme being, the giver and disposer of all human events, with the most profound respect and veneration, the most heartfelt gratitude; and, (by gradually improving as far as may be, his moral and intellectual powers,) to rise, at last, from his present station in the universe, to the rank and exalted felicity of celestial beings.

H—Y—C.

Bucks County, May 8, 1805.

FOR THE EVENING FIRE-SIDE.

ELEGY ON THE DEATH OF WILLIAM WARING,

Teacher of Mathematics, who died in the Yellow Fever in 1793.—By the late William Clifton: not published in the collection of his poems.

See the pale-mounted minister advance,
And greet the threshold of yon social dome;
Reft of his frowns, with flower adorned lance,
He beckons WARING to his peaceful home.

Astonish'd man! ask not the secret cause,
Why from mankind are torn the good and just?
Heav'n moves all nature by impervious laws,
And leaves conjecture to the child of dust.

If the unjust alone were doom'd to bear,
The graves dark thraldom, and forgotten lie;
If Virtue's guerdon only flourish'd here,
Then peaceful WARING death had pass'd thee by.

The praise precarious of the world, in vain
Prepared for him its fascinating snare;
His soul's first wish was from his heart to gain,
The cheerful plaudits of the umpire *there*.

In science' grove adorn'd with many a flower,
He rear'd a fane beside her deepest spring;
Oft would she meet him at his favourite bower,
And grant instruction from her varied wing.

As wakes the morn in summer beams array'd,
The pearl's white radiance on the dewy spray;
So from his mind the beam of science play'd,
And in young genius kindled up a ray.

Yet is the eye of mortal wisdom blind,
Nor can religion draw the veil aside;
New scenes, departed goodness! shalt thou find,
And worlds which finite nature ne'er descried.

Still may the sacred spot where thou art laid,
A mantle of unfading flowrets wear;
Thy grave with olive, gentle peace shall shade,
And weeping science scatter laurels there.

To the Editors of the Evening Fire-side.

Mopington, May 3d, 1805.

Your attention in giving my letter to S. S. a chance of reaching its destination has awakened a sense of gratitude powerfulenough tomake me forego the enjoyment of a post meridian nap for the sake of expressing it by the b arer, who sets off immediately, being one of those uneasy, ever-busy mortals, that will not put off till to-morrow, what can be done to-day. Gratitude is an uneasy sensation, and often incites the indolent to action, more powerfully than the invitations of interest or the pleadings of propriety: under its influence I have been casting about, how most effectually to prove my sense of your kindness. Accident at length discovered what I had long sought for in vain. In looking into the recesses of Mopington Hall (which lately fell to me by the demise of an uncle by my mother's side) I came across the old gentleman's cabinet of papers, by which it appears, that he was in the habit of penning down his thoughts as they arose. Now as you are so fond of literature, I thought these would be an acceptable present. The inclosed is therefore sent as a specimen; which if you like, probably more may follow. It appears by the date, to be his last production, and, different from all his other writings, was evidently intended to be published in some newspaper. But I must make one condition—send back the originals, which, out of respect to old uncle for the many guineas he has left me, I wish to deposit in the family archives. If your carelessness in this respect should render it necessary for me to copy them off, the intolerable labour would prevent your hearing often from your friend.*

P. O.

From my Uncle's Cabinet.

Monday, Dec. 17th, 1804.

"And the ducks, as they passed by him, made an incessant clatter of Quack. Quack. Quack."

That health is an indispensable companiment to all mundane enjoyments, is too trite an observation, and too obvious to every one, to need the support of argument. But it is a subject of regret, that the means employed to preserve the blessing, are often so poorly adapted as to defeat the very purpose they were intended to serve. How frequently do we see people, who upon every slight touch of indisposition, resort to nostrums and arcana compounded by quacks and composed of ingredients unfriendly to life! by the operation of these, what was nothing more than a transient headache, or a trifling twitch of the nerves, becomes a fixed malady and serious derangement of the system. A neighbour of mine affords a striking instance in point. He was attacked last autumn with a shaking fit, and having read in the newspapers, a pompous account of the immediate efficacy of the patent ague-drops, he with eagerness purchased them, and though advised against it, confidently swallowed the prescribed dose. Some time after I called on him, with an expectation of spending a social cheerful evening; but how was I surprised at the appearance of my friend: his head was swollen, his tongue almost too big to be bent into speech, and his arms looked like blown bladders. This, he ruefully told me, was the consequence of the drops he had taken. After suffering inexpressible anguish for six months, he was able to go about; but perhaps will never regain his pristine vigour of constitution, The dose he took has had however one good effect—it has perfectly cured him of quackery. He can now hardly restrain his indignation at reading in the papers a display of the cures, said to be performed by *Ching's worm-destroying Lozenges*, &c. &c. &c. and he almost gets the shivers at the sound of *ague-drops*.

The effrontery of empirics, is truly wonderful, and is only equalled by the credulity of those who swallow with equal avidity their doses and their tales of wonder. In this morning's paper I have just now read an advertisement of one Dr. R. lately arrived from Portugal, in which he promises to cure the *yellow fever* in twenty-four *hours*, and the *consumption* in 9 days!! Another far-famed Doctor from some country or other, (I don't at this moment recollect where) has given a schedule of diseases, which those dull *plodders* called regular bred physicians generally consider as doubtful, if not incurable cases; in this the redoubtable *Hornbook* undertakes to prescribe the exact number of days, or hours, requisite to cure the most inveterate maladies from the *confirmed consumption*, *hydrophobia*, and *king's evil*, down to the simple intermittent!!! An inoculator also, of the Northern Liberties, very sagely asks the fond mother how many pock marks she wishes her daughter to have; whether he shall place one as a graceful dimple in the chin, or whether she would prefer to have one in each cheek, like beauteous twin sisters!!! *Risum teneatis, Amici!* Those pretenders have at times excited the smile of contempt: but more often the indignant frown has contracted the brow of the philanthropist at the contemplation of the manifold miseries which have followed their seductive arts. Some, zealous in the cause of humanity, have urged the necessity of legislative prescription in the practice of the healing art. But restraining laws would be as unavailing as a bank of earth against a roaring cataract, while popular credulity declares for the impostors: to the obviating of this let the energy of the discerning be directed, and quackery will fall of course. For however disinterested in profession—to pick the pockets of the poor—to swindle the simple of their substance—and to cully the credulous of his cash, is the aim of all their arts.

In a British periodical work intitled the "World," is an excellent piece on the deliterious properties of quack medicines. I shall transcribe it for the benefit of those who are not yet sufficiently aware of the evils and dangers, which may attend the employment of mercenary adventurers, who often vend the most active poisons under the harmless names of balsams and elixers, liniments and salves.

"Mr. Fitz-Adam,

"I have lately made a discovery, which for the good of mankind, I hope you will permit me to make public by the means of your paper.

"I must inform you that by the death of an aunt, I am lately come to the possession of a fine old manor-house in the country, which on my going thither with my family to reside, I found so overrun with rats, that we were in danger of being devoured by them. You may be sure I left nothing untried to rid the house of them; but they baffled the attempts of the rat catchers, and continued to increase rather than diminish; till all at once they vanished of their own accord, and never visited me afterwards. I was very much puzzled to account for this strange desertion; and it was not till near a fortnight had elapsed, that I was let into the secret by a very uncommon and offensive smell, that proceeded from the door of an old lumber room.—I immediately entered and found a multitude of rats lying dead upon the floor. On examining into the cause, I cast my

* P. S. Please convey from me to Allen, an invitation to Mopington Hall. Tell him there is here every thing conducive to rest—nodding-chairs and sofas, for noon-tide repose, line the hall; where, as swells the breeze, gentle slumbers shall steal upon us, assisted by the soft strain of the Æolian Harp, played upon by the fingers of zephyrus. Tell him also that for miles around there is no chanticleer to disturb, with his obtrusive crowings, our morning lounge.

eye upon a little drawer, which I remembered to have left open in search after some papers for my aunt, and that it was filled with various sorts of quack medicines, such as pills, powders, ointments and other things, for which she had the highest veneration. The drawer which was quite full when I opened it, was now almost empty, which sufficiently convinced me that I was indebted for my deliverance to these medicines; but I was cautious of asserting it, till I tried the experiment. For this purpose I procured of a rat-catcher half a dozen live rats, to each of which I gave a different medicine. In half an hour and three minutes, two of my patients died in convulsions; the rest were thrown into profuse sweats, vomiting and purging to so violent a degree, that they survived their companions but three quarters of an hour, and then gave up the ghost in the same convulsions.

"I was highly pleased with this experiment, as it taught me the real use of these excellent medicines; and it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity of recommending them to all captains of ships, maltsters, meal-men, and farmers, and to those gentlemen and ladies who live in old houses.

"I am, sir,

"Your constant reader

"And humble servant,

"G. D."

P. S. By a second experiment I have discovered that one of these pills pounded or crumbled will destroy twenty mice; they may also be of excellent use in thinning a poor family of young children, being thus pounded or bruised, and spread in small quantities on their bread and butter.

FOR THE EVENING FIRE-SIDE.

ON MERIT.

How oft fair merit, high in worth,
By woes surrounded from its birth,
For notice vainly tries:
Consign'd through life uncheer'd to dwell,
Though striving eager to excel;
It blooms, unknown, and dies.

But should a fostering aid appear,
Resolv'd its budding sweets to cheer,
And all their beauties show;
Expanding quickly to the view,
Its various charms, of lovely hue
In full perfection glow.

ALFRED.

FOR THE EVENING FIRE-SIDE.

Although I was treated at first with neglect,
And my verses were mangled so sadly;
You ne'er shall accuse me with want of respect,
I discharge debts of gratitude gladly.

After thanking you first for the interest you took,
In promoting the much wish'd for blessing:
I must turn to my fair one with comforting look,
For her story is truly distressing.

I must not be alarm'd when I ought to be charm'd,
I must mind not how oddly things "strike her;"
Tho' age and experience have cupid disarm'd,
Yet how can I say I don't like her.

She is thirteen I'm sure, perhaps rather more,
And who pray would choose one much older;
Tho' bashful at present, before she's fourscore,
I dare to predict she'll be bolder.

Her Pegasus I think is both spavin and blind,
He moves without measure or metre;
And if impolitely I leave her behind,
'Tis not from ambition to *beat her*.

At present adieu! thy faults I'll not tell,
But if they should gradually wane,
Some twenty years hence 'twill perhaps be as well,
To converse on the subject again.

TOM TIMID.

May 11th, 1805.

SELECTED FOR THE EVENING FIRE-SIDE.

ANECDOTE OF DR. FOTHERGILL.

"The humane reader will feel the finest springs of his affections moved by the following anecdote given by a clergyman of high rank, who reveres the memory of Dr. Fothergill, and places his obligations to him, in a very trying season, near to his heart.

"A friend of his, a man of a worthy character, who has at this time an income of about 100l. a year, church preferment was, in the earlier part of his life, seated in London upon a curacy of 50l. per annum, with a wife and a numerous family. An epidemical disease, which was at that time prevalent, seized upon his wife and five of his children. In this scene of distress he looked up to the Doctor for his assistance, but dared not apply to him from a consciousness of his being unable to reward him for his attendance. A friend, who knew his situation, kindly offered to accompany him to the Doctor's, and give him his fee. They took the advantage of his hour of audience, and, after a description of the several cases, the fee was offered, and rejected, but a note was taken of his place of residence. The Doctor called assiduously the next, & every succeeding day, till his attendance was no longer necessary. The curate, anxious to return some grateful mark of the sense he entertained of his services, strained every nerve to accomplish it; but his astonishment was not to be described, when instead of receiving the money he offered, with apologies for his situation, the Doctor put ten guineas into his hand, desiring him to apply to him without diffidence in future difficulties.

"Although, amidst the diffusion of his favours he too frequently met with painful returns, yet he would never allow instances of this sort to check the ardour of his mind in doing all the good he could to others; and even to those who returned ingratitude for kindness, his charity continued still patient, hoping all things. It was his common expression, when he found his favours misapplied, or himself imposed upon, "I had much rather that my favours should fall upon many undeserving objects, than that one truly deserving should escape my notice."

* * * * * * * * * * *

"There was one advantage, of no small moment, which patients derived from his attendance. He knew how to unite the kindness of friendship with his professional duties; and could enter into those retreats of anxiety, from which flow an infinitude of bodily distresses, with an eye clearly discerning, yet incurious and benign. A religious spirit of sensibility disposed him to draw near the deep wells of affliction, and diffuse the oil of peace over the troubled waters.—There was a discretion in his sympathy, that attached the confidence of his patients in an uncommon degree; and of what importance such an acquisition must be in the course of an extensive practice, I leave to the judgment of every skilful practitioner.

"A lady of my acquaintance, occasionally expressing her high regard for the Doctor, and the satisfaction she received from his attendance upon her on many occasions, made use of the following pathetic language: "He was indeed my warm friend and adviser in my distress, as well as my physician. He was, under Providence, the preserver of my health, and the restorer of my peace in the severest conflicts of my life."

We forbear to extract some other amiable particulars of this great and good man's life, as they would exceed the limits we can allow to this article; but we

must just observe, that Dr. Hurd gives an ample account of that noble institution at Ackworth in Yorkshire, in the establishment and endowment of which it appears that Dr. Fothergill had a principal share.

[*Walker's Mag.*]

WILLIAM SHIPLEY, ESQ.

While the popular opinion run so strong against Roman Catholic Priests, and Jesuits, Mr. Shipley used to frequent old Slaughter's Coffee-House. He then lodged in Greek street, Soho, and consequently found it agreeable to take his afternoon tea there, when not otherwise engaged. He seldom spoke, amused himself with the papers, &c. laid his sixpence upon the bar, and retired. His dress was at this time black, his appearance as I have observed solemn, and his taciturnity so remarkable, that it was the opinion of most of the company, that, "he did not hold his tongue for nothing." While conjecture was wearying herself with respect to his character and profession, he innocently administered to her more food for speculation.

It has been stated, that it was the property of his active and energetic mind, ever to be studying some plan for the public advantage; consequently he had generally with him abundance of papers and memorandums. These he used frequently to contemplate at the Coffee House, and, from the idea of the minute, make remarks upon them. The company had been some time wavering in opinion, whether he was a spy, in the service of the French Monarchy, or a Jesuit, delegated by his Holiness the Pope, to take care of the concerns of the family of a certain Cardinal; but the production of these papers, some of which might probably contain the ichnography of future manufactors, or mathematical diagrams, caused a coalition of sentiments, and it was now on all hands believed, that Mr. Shipley one of the most loyal, benevolent, and inoffensive beings on earth, was here acting a double capacity, with a view to remuneration from both those potentates. In consequence of this suggestion, some of these officious gentlemen soon after intimated to an adjacent magistrate the danger that might arise to the state from suffering a person of his description to sit for hours together in a public coffee-room without saying a word to any one; to read, write, and sometimes to draw, unquestionably plans of the dock-yards, or charts of the most accessible parts of the channel and coast: at other times, when spoken to, only to answer in monysyllables; and, in short, do many other things of this nature, contrary to his allegiance, and such as randered him a very suspicious character.

The magistrate, who happened to have a greater share of sense and discretion than his informers, instead of sending a warrant, which perhaps the ebullition of the public mind in those times might have justified, desired some of his officers to request the favour of the gentleman to attend him; which request was instantly complied with. But when Mr. Shipley came to the judgment seat, whether he could not, or would not, explain his situation; whether his papers which might be plans and remarks, that probably no one understood but himself, made an unfavourable impression, is uncertain; but it is certain, the magistrate, who was unacquainted with the hesitative mode of delivery of the culprit, appeared to have considerable doubts of his innocence; and in fact matters began to assume a serious appearance, when two of his intimate friends, who had heard of the adventure at the coffee house, came into the room. "What is the occasion of this crowd!" said one of them.

"We have got a spy and Jesuit in custody."

"Where is he?"

"There!" was the reply.

"There! why the gentleman is as loyal a person as any in his majesty's dominions. He is brother to an eminent divine of the church of England."

"Is this certain?" said the magistrate.

"Certain," replied the gentleman, "you know me, sir, and I can vouch for the truth of what I have asserted."

"Why, then, did he not speak?"

"We know," continued the gentleman, "that it is an offence in certain circumstances, to stand mute at the bar; but this is the first time we ever heard it was any to be quiet in a coffee-room.—However as the taciturnity of our friend has involved him in such disagreeable consequences, we will endeavour to prevail with him to be more loquacious in future.

[*M. Mir.*]

LITERARY ANECDOTE.

An old gentleman (who attended more to learning his son the methods of accumulating riches than knowledge) living some time since in a town in one of the eastern states. From application and industry, he had amassed a property of about 20,000 dollars, although not able to read or write, he never hired a clerk, but had always been in the habit of keeping his own books.

He had invented some new characters for the purpose of conveying his ideas to himself and others; they were formed as nearly similar to the shape of the article sold as the nature of the circumstance would admit. One day a customer of his called on him for the purpose of settling his account, (calls, Mr. Editor, which you will be very fond of receiving in the course of a few months;) the book of hieroglyphics was handed down, and our merchant commenced with "such a time you had a gallon of rum, and such a time a pound of tea—such a time a gallon of molasses, and such a time a cheese." "Stop there," says the customer, "I never had a cheese of you nor any other person—I make my own cheese." "You certainly must have had it," said the merchant, "it is down in my book." The other denied ever buying an article of that kind. After a sufficient number of pros and cons, upon recollection, he informed him he believed he had purchased a *Grindstone* about that time.—'Tis the very thing, said the merchant, and I must have forgotten to put *the hole in the middle*.

VISITOR.

NOVELS.

In the general Review of *British Literature*, for 1803, as published in the *London Literary Journal*, we find the following Remarks on the accumulation of *Novels* in that country, and the pernicious tendency of their examples.

"IN WORKS OF FANCY, the last year has by no means been fortunate.—Novels, plays, and poems indeed, appear in as rapid succession as—the streams of the northern lights, we would say, were it not improper to compare with this brilliant meteor those unlustrous productions, that do not even flash before they disappear from the sight forever. The novels of the present day indeed serve the end of their creation; they bring a little money into the pockets of the writers, and enable the proprietors of circulating libraries to fill up their shelves at a cheap rate. And did their whole effects stop here, we should pass them over most willingly in the silence to which they are speedily consign-

ed: but a severer censure ought to attend the consequences which we daily see flowing from them, in misleading the imaginations, and corrupting the affections of those young men and women, whose parents are not sufficiently careful in directing their tastes and strengthening their moral principles. Instead of affording pictures of real life, and useful lessons for its conduct, the novels which have disgraced the press of the last year, exhibit a meagre story, spun out into four or five wide printed volumes, interspersed with a few improbable incidents to keep up the interest, embellished with some florid bombast known by the name of poetical description, and garnished throughout with that sentimental jargon which serves to debauch and fritter away all the better feelings of the young and thoughtless.

CHOICE APHORISMS.

A plain and short road to a good destiny.

"Be studious and thou wilt be learned —Be industrious and frugal and thou wilt be rich—Be sober and temperate, and thou wilt he happy."

A rule which nobody should forget.—Speak as seldom and as little as may be, either *for* thyself, or *of* thyself; but let thy character speak for thee. Whatever *that* says will be believed; but what thou sayest in commendation of thy own character, instead of being believed, will but render thee ridiculous.

The following is said to be a fragment of an ancient Egyptian king found at Thebes.

"I never denied justice to the poor for his poverty; neither pardoned the wealthy for his riches.

"I never gave reward for affection, nor punishment upon passion.

"I never suffered evil to escape unpunished, neither goodness unrewarded.

"I never denied justice to him that asked it, neither mercy to him that deserved it.

"I never opened my gate to the flatterer nor mine ear to the back-biter.

"I always sought to be beloved by the good, and feared of the wicked.

"I always favoured the poor, that was able to do little, and God, who was able to do much, always favoured me.

A Trait of Early Times.

In such high esteem was practical agriculture held by the ancient Romans, that they resented the slightest affront offered to the profession of it; of which the following instance is on record: Scipio Nisica being a candidate for the place of Curule Edile, meeting a labouring farmer, took him by the hand and asked him for his vote; but finding his hand to be very hard, he said to him, "Pray, friend, do you walk on your hands?" The farmer resented this question and complained of it as an insult, and Scipio, in consequence, lost his election.

AGRICULTURAL.

On the use of oxen in husbandry.

The use of horses in husbandry would not be so general here, if farmers would think for themselves. That oxen would be of equal utility (beast for beast) in point of working, is a fact decided by the experience of old countries. This being granted, the four following proofs of the superior convenience and profit of cattle, must give an undoubted preference to them.

1st. To a new settler, the cost of stocking his farm with oxen is much less than with horses.

2d. The facility of feeding oxen, also gives them the preference—although clean, they will eat a coarser food than horses, and less in quantity.

3d. They are more hardy, and less subject to disease; and they can better endure labour, inclemency of weather, and the unavoidable exposure in new settlements.

4th. With loss of sight, old age, or broken limb, they will command, if fat, a price equal to their original value.

To make the ox most serviceable, you must begin with it when a calf; handle it frequently, treat it gently, and feed it well. If you have room, it should be housed with your cows, and should have a separate stall, early. It must be broken to labour by degrees, and early put into harness; but only used as leader to a light load for a year, before it shares the labour of a farm. The slowness of an ox appears to be the only objection; and this will be effectually removed by the above treatment and care, in breaking them.

For the information of farmers, an agricultural writer in a late northern paper mentions, that the King of England, who employs constantly eight pair of oxen, has introduced the practice of working them in collars. In this mode they do almost as much work as horses, and stop much more freely than in yokes.—In order to accustom them to the collar, a strap is buckled round their neck, to which a log is fastened by a cord. They draw this log after them while feeding, and by this mean the collar becomes familiar to them.

Should the above only induce a few to adopt the use of cattle, experience of their superior utility must make it general.

An ingenious method of propagating Cucumbers, for several crops in succession, without sowing them.

As soon as there appear several flower buds on a plant, bend the second or third joint or branch below the blossom, fasten it firmly in the ground, and cut off the capillary point of the plant. The vegetable speedily takes root, when you separate it from the parent stalk. Proceed thus with the most vigorous plants; and as each root has to support only a few fruits with nourishment, you both save labour, and procure constant succession of cucumbers, for a number of months, from one sort, which is not so liable to degenerate, as if they were raised from a variety of seeds.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

FOREIGN.—By the arrival of the ship Union, in 34 days from Liverpool, London dates to the 5th ult. have been received. Events of considerable importance to the European world have occurred since the last advices. Of these our time and limits admit only a very rapid sketch —Bonaparte, the ambitious Bonaparte has been declared king of Italy. The city of Lubeck has been surrounded by French troops for the ostensible purpose of preventing the introduction of British manufactures: against this daring measure the Prussian government has sent a spirited remonstrance to Paris. A want of cordiality seems to exist among the northern powers in relation to a connection with Britain. The new constitution of Holland is about to go into operation. The secret expedition, confidently stated to be bound for the Mediterranean, has sailed from Portsmouth and Plymouth. The Toulon fleet had put to sea, and Nelson, ignorant of their destination, was in quest of them. The Brest fleet had also put to sea, and from the last accounts the channel fleet and they were in sight, and a rencounter considered certain. Intelligence had reached London of the arrival at Dominica of the Rochefort squadron.

The British government has determined on the following disposal of the treasure detained

in the Spanish plate ships, previous to the declaration of war. It is to be appropriated in the first instance to the discharge of certain long standing claims of British individuals against the Spanish government. Commissioners are appointed, one by the claimants and another by the government. Some of the claims are very large—one house at Exeter demands 100,000l. sterling.

The Bank of England has given notice that "after the 13th of April, no bills of Exchange or promissory notes, dated after that day, will be discounted, unless accepted payable at the Bank of England or at the Bankers in London."

The House of Commons of Great Britain, in a committee on the commercial treaty with America, had agreed to a resolution to permit America to trade with that country in neutral bottoms under certain restrictions. The house being resumed, the report was received, and a bill ordered.

Letters received from Spain state, that apprehensions were entertained of a descent by the British on Ferrol—and that troops were arriving from the interior at that place.

The papers a few days since received from Calcutta, are exclusively occupied with the details of battles, and the awful consequences of wide-wasting war.

It is said, that Colonel Tousard, has received the appointment of Consul at New-Orleans, from the Government of France, and that he was about to embark from Bordeaux.

Various accounts from St. Domingo, render it certain, that the black army has been defeated before the city of St. Domingo; and that its scattered divisions had retreated to the northern and western parts of the island. Letters from Cape Francois, to the 19th ult. state, that the sable Emperor, Dessalines, had arrived at the Cape; and that his followers had brought with them large quantities of Spanish plunder.

Humbolt, the traveller, is still in Paris, and engaged in scientific researches. He is soon to proceed to Italy, where he will undertake a series of experiments on the chemical analysis of air, the electricity of volcanoes, and the intensity of the magnetic fluid. He has this winter been preparing for the press a work on the Equinoctial Plants, a part of which he read to the first class of the institute in its last sitting.

The annual consumption of eatables and drinkables in Paris, amounts to 16,000,000 pounds of bread, 75,000 oxen, 16,000 cows, 103,000 calves, 220,000 sheep, 558,576 pigs, 21,487 muids of oats, 8,500 of barley, 30,000 do. beer, 6,000 of cyder, wine unknown, 100 quantals of sea-fish, 400,000 francs worth of brandy. There are upwards of 3,000 coffee houses in Paris. The quantity of coffee consumed in this city would be worth ascertaining, since the mantua-making girls, domestics, and matrons, all breakfast on it.

Domestic.—Dispatches from Monroe for our government are said to have been received. We have not been able to learn the nature of their contents, but, probably they relate to the blockade of Cadiz, which is carried on with the greatest rigour. Some letters have lately passed between him and Sir John Orde, commander of the blockading fleet, relative to this important subject. The object of the minister was to have the blockade reduced, so as to allow vessels in port to sail, but it has not been attained. If a vessel was ballasted with salt, it would be a sufficient cause of capture.

Remarkable.—We are credibly informed, as incredible as it may appear, that a poor family from one of the eastern states, lately passed through Albany on their way to the western country for the purpose of cultivating an extensive farm that had been given to them. This family consisted of a man, his wife, and *twenty four sons*, twenty of whom were born at ten births. They had been married only 13 years. Our informant adds, that so great was the curiosity of the people in and about Albany, that hundreds crowded to see them—one gentleman presented each of the sons with ten dollars, and presents of various kinds, were heaped upon them.

The following article is copied from the Halifax Weekly Chronicle, of the 29th ult.

"We have frequently been informed of the polite attention which British subjects have experienced from the respectable inhabitants of Boston; but a recent circumstance, which ought not to pass unnoticed, places this disposition in a still more impressive point of view. A British officer died in that town last winter, and left an amiable and depressed family to lament his loss. Scarcely were his remains deposited in "the house appointed for all living," when, without any public notice, being given, a sum, considerably exceeding eight thousand dollars, was collected, and presented in the most delicate manner, to the unfortunate widow. All comment is superfluous."

Coal Mine in Woodstock.—In digging a cellar in Woodstock a few days since, the workmen unexpectedly came upon a vein of Coal, at the depth of two or three feet, which, according to the information we have had, proves of an excellent quality. The size of the vein has not been ascertained; nor have we been able to learn the direction of its stratum, the quality of the surrounding stone, or the local situation of the mine.—Coal has been often found on the surrounding mountains, but not in such quantities as to induce effectual search. These indications, however, afford strong hopes that the country contains valuable mines of this material, the use and value of which are daily increasing, and of which vast quantities are annually imported from Europe to supply our demands. The mine discovered is about twelve miles from Esopus.—*Plebeian.*

The captain of an eastern vessel states, that on his passage from Bordeaux, he had fell in with 500 islands of ice!

Gideon Grainger, Esq. Post Master General, of the United States, is appointed by the President to hold a conference with certain Indian nations, in order to extinguish their claim to land. He is on his way to Sandusky.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The errata complained of, by C. in the edition of the New Testament to which he alludes, are certainly of great magnitude, and ought by no means to be passed over unnoticed. Of all books, the *Old* and the *New Testament* should be printed with the most scrupulous attention to neatness and accuracy.—A consideration too little regarded since their introduction as school-books.—But whether the Editor spoken of be peculiarly faulty or not, there would be an evident impropriety in our sitting in judgment upon, and condemning one we have not seen merely upon the authority of an anonymous communication. Our individual experience also tends to inspire us with a degree of tenderness for our faulty brethren; knowing how difficult is it *even for us to keep from erring.*

Gadargues after examining our present number, will we presume agree with us that the necessity for publishing his communication is superseded—for we think that even parental partiality will not deny to J. W. a superiority.

The communication from New-Hampshire has been received—it is intended for our next. We note with pleasure the satisfaction expressed in reading our "little quarto," and feel grateful for our correspondent's wishing us "prosperity and good success."

Agricola's last communication is so much inferior to his former ones, that we are almost induced to suspect his neighbour Jonathan who he says copied them for him of inaccuracy.

The original "thoughts" of friend "S,"
A youth we are told of nineteen,
(But whom we conjecture is less)
We judge are unfit to be seen.

Urian shall receive attention in our next.

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